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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,396	08/25/2003	Nader N. Abazarnia	884.392US2	2650

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EXAMINER

KENNY, STEPHEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3726

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 19-23, drawn to a method of making a connector assembly, classified in class 29, subclass 857.
- II. Claims 24-29, drawn to a method for making a testing system, classified in class 29, subclass 593.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination of Group I (claims 19-23) does not require forming a chassis for holding an integrated circuit. The subcombination has separate utility such as being operable to test the functionality of an integrated circuit.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with John Dahl on March 29, 2004 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 19-23.

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Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 24-29 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 19, 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foust et al. (US patent No 3663922) in view of Zielinski (US Patent No 4060889).

Regarding claims 19 & 21, Foust discloses a connector assembly comprising a first conductive layer (14) over a second conductive layer (12) to define a cable (10), wherein the conductive layers are insulated (16) from each other & are flexible; connecting the first

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conductive layer (14) to a terminal of the connector plug (34); connecting the second conductive layer to another terminal of the connector plug (32) (column 2, lines 17+; Figures 1, 4, & 5).

Foust does not explicitly disclose connecting capacitors between the conductive layers.

Zielinski discloses a cable having conductive layers (30) wherein a plurality of capacitors are connected between said conductive layers (column 1, lines 18-23; column 3, lines 35-45 & Figure 2). The use of capacitors in flexible cables is advantageous in that they enable filtering to reduce the electrical noise in the signals carried by the cable. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form a flexible connector assembly as disclosed by Foust, with capacitors attached between the conductive layers as taught by Zielinski, in order to filter the electrical noise.

Regarding claim 22, Foust discloses the claimed invention by coating the conductive layers with insulation (17), however does not explicitly state that the insulative material is mylar. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to use mylar as the insulative material, since applicant has not disclosed that mylar solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose; furthermore, it appears as if the claimed invention would perform equally well with the insulative material disclosed by Foust. Additionally, applicant states on page 2, line 25 that mylar “or the like” insulative material may be used.

Regarding claim 23, as discussed above, it is well known to attach capacitors to the conductive layers in a flexible cable in order to reduce the electrical noise. Likewise, applicant states (on page 3, lines 29) that “the number of capacitors that are required to provide the level of noise decoupling and the reduction in equivalent series resistance and voltage droop required”.

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Therefore the use of capacitors to reduce/decouple the electrical noise within a flexible cable, will inherently affect the equivalent series resistance & voltage droop.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record on the attached PTO-892, and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

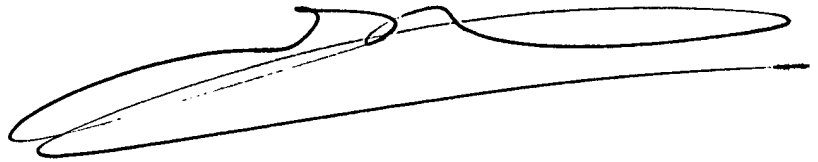
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen J Kenny whose telephone number is 703-306-0359. The examiner can normally be reached on mon - fri 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 703-308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sk SK  
4/7/04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PETER VO', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**PETER VO  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700**